

COWBOY WESTERN

No 57

COWBOY

WESTERN

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

10¢



BILL HICKOK
Sheriff of Abilene



ANNIE OAKLEY
Queen of Sharpshooters



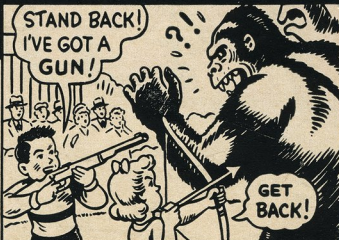


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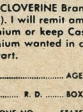
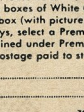
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COWBOY WESTERN

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COWBOY WESTERN

WILD BILL HICKOK in *The* TRAP



COWBOY WESTERN

ON A NEARBY RIDGE...



I'VE BEEN STANDING BY LONG ENOUGH-- LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A HAND NOW / UH-OH... THE COUGAR'S ALMOST ON HIM... FIRST SHOT BETTER BE GOOD!

A MOMENT LATER...

WHO FIRED? WHO SAVED THE LIFE OF TALL MOOSE, WHO IS WORTHLESS?



HICKOK'S THE NAME, SON! **WILD BILL HICKOK**, FOLKS CALL ME! AND WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, WHO LET YOU OUT OF THE BOOBY-HATCH?



WHAT'S THE IDEA OF TREEING THAT COUGAR... THEN PULLING HIM DOWN AND RASSLING WITH HIM BAREHANDED? COULDN'T YOU THINK OF ANY EASIER WAY TO GET TO THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS?



MY FATHER, **CHIEF BLACK CLOUD**, CALLED ME A WEAK SQUAW! HE SAID I WAS WITHOUT COURAGE! I HAD TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT HIS WORDS WERE EMPTY OF TRUTH! I HAD TO FEEL AS STRONG AND PROUD AGAIN...



...AS I FELT THAT NIGHT ON THE PRAIRIE...

THE **SHAMAN** HAS SEEN A VISION, HE SAYS IF YOU STAND GUARD TONIGHT, MY SON, THE WHOLE HERD WILL BE LOST!

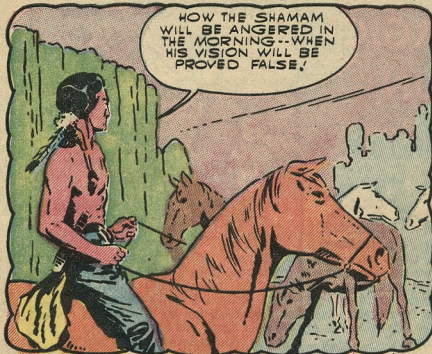
THEN THE SHAMAN HAS SEEN A **FALSE** VISION, MY FATHER! I SHALL KEEP WATCH LIKE AN EAGLE-- AND IF THIEVES COME, I SHALL FIGHT LIKE A COUGAR!



COWBOY WESTERN

AND SO MY FATHER LEFT ME WITH THE HERD...

HOW THE SHAMAM
WILL BE ANGERED IN
THE MORNING--WHEN
HIS VISION WILL BE
PROVED FALSE!



BUT
THEN...

MY EYES... SO
HEAVY... I CANNOT
KEEP THEM OPEN!
I-- I'M SINKING
TO THE GROUND!



WHEN
I NEXT
OPENED
MY EYES...

**THE HERD!
ALL GONE!!
EVERY
HORSE
STOLEN!**



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO FACE TEN COUGARS
THAN TO FACE MY FATHER'S WRATH THAT MORNING...

WEAK SQUAW! COWARD!
THE HERD WAS OUR TRIBE'S
WEALTH! BECAUSE OF YOU,
MY PEOPLE WILL STARVE
NEXT WINTER!

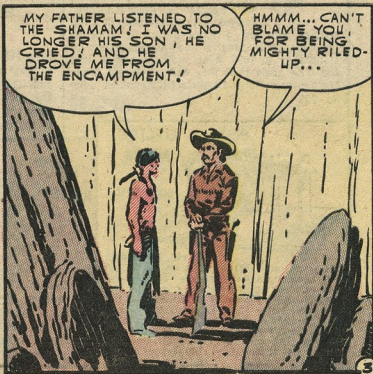


THE GODS ARE ANGERED, OH CHIEF--
YOUR SON DARED TO CALL THEIR
VISION FALSE! THE TRIBE WILL
BE CURSED IF HE STAYS
HERE...

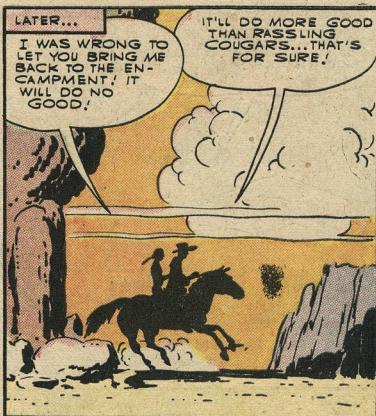
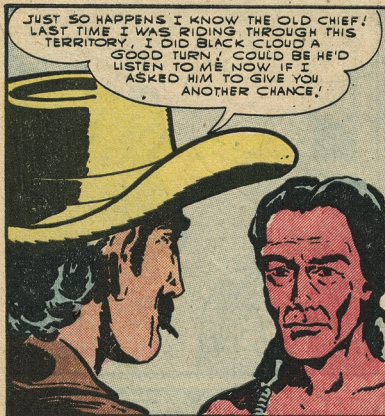


MY FATHER LISTENED TO
THE SHAMAM; I WAS NO
LONGER HIS SON, HE
CRIED; AND HE
DROVE ME FROM
THE ENCAMPMENT!

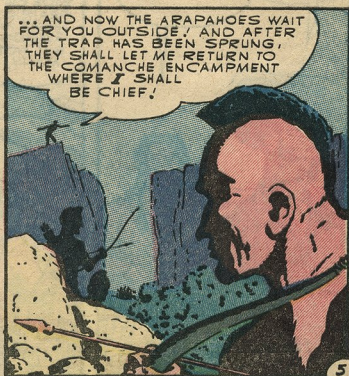
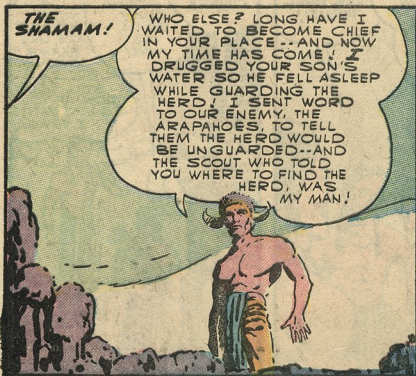
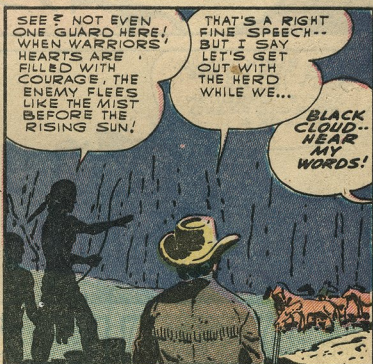
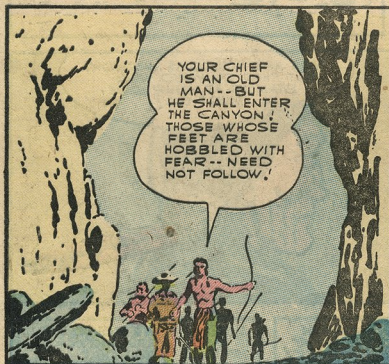
HMMM... CAN'T
BLAME YOU,
FOR BEING
MIGHTY RILED-
UP...



COWBOY WESTERN



COWBOY WESTERN



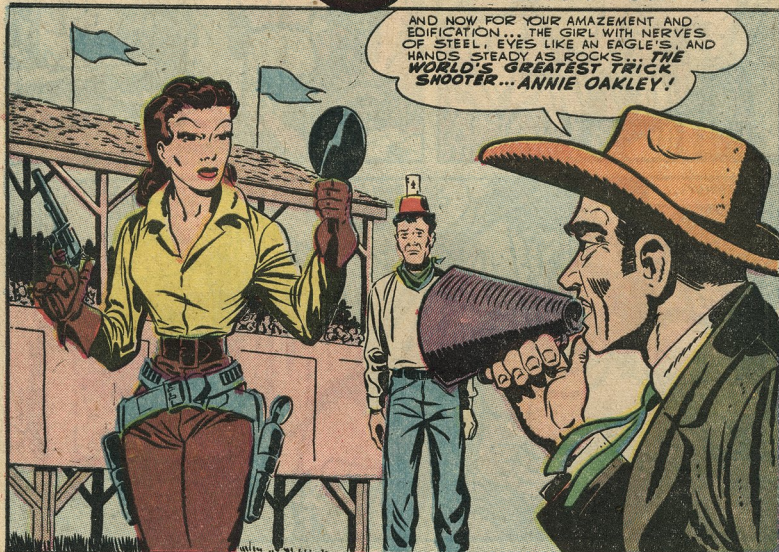
COWBOY WESTERN



COWBOY WESTERN

Annie Oakley

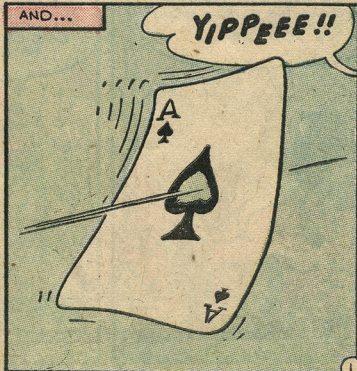
The LAST SHOW



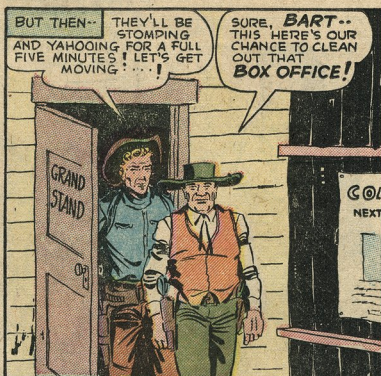
NOT A SOUND IN THE ARENA NOW... ALL EYES ARE RIVETED ON THAT SMALL PLAYING CARD PROPPED ON THE COW-HAND'S HEAD! ANNIE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...



AND...



COWBOY WESTERN



COWBOY WESTERN



KRAKK!

KRAKK!



N-NEVER SAW SUCH FAST-DRAWIN'! THAT GAL'S LIKE LIGHTNIN' GONE LOCO...!

STAND FAST, BOTH OF YOU!



YOU WON'T SHOOT AGAIN, ANNIE... TOO MANY FOLKS RUSHING HERE TO SEE WHAT THE RUCKUS IS ALL ABOUT... SOMEBODY MIGHT GET HURT!



HE'S RIGHT!... CAN'T SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER NOW!

OWLHOOT JUST HELD UP THE BOX OFFICE!



BUT **BART SMOLLEN** IS AS FAST WITH THAT TWISTED BRAIN OF HIS AS HE IS WITH HIS FEET!

THE OWLHOOT WENT THATAWAY! I'M MOUNTING UP AND GOING AFTER HIM!



THEY'LL NEVER HEAD ME OFF! THIS IS THE FASTEST MOUNT IN THE TERRITORY...!

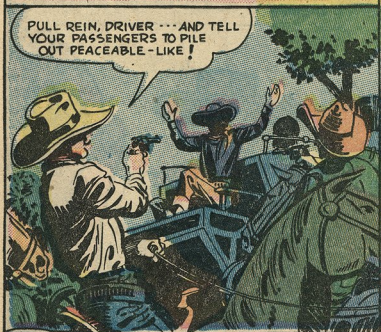


... BUT **ANNIE OAKLEY** HASN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME! WAIT TILL MY BROTHER, **LUKE**, HEARS ABOUT THIS! HE'LL HELP ME GET HER IF IT'S THE LAST THING HE DOES...!

COWBOY WESTERN

TWO DAYS LATER, ON THE STAGE TRAIL NOT FAR FROM CRAGSTONE JUNCTION . . .

PULL REIN, DRIVER . . . AND TELL YOUR PASSENGERS TO PILE OUT PEACEABLE-LIKE!



BUT ONE OF THE PASSENGERS IS . . .

ANNIE OAKLEY!

YOU SAID TO PILE OUT PEACEABLE-LIKE. WELL . . . THESE ARE MY PEACEMAKERS!



HEY! YOU GONNA LET ONE PINK-CHEEKED FEMALE MAKE YOU RUN OFF WITH YOUR TAILS BETWEEN YOUR LEGS . . . ?

WE SURE ARE, LUKE! ANNIE OAKLEY'S NO ORDINARY FEMALE—SHE'S THE

BEST SHOT IN THE WHOLE WEST!



WHY, YOU YELLOW-BELLIED COYOTES! I'LL . . .

HE'S TALKIN' BIG, ANNIE . . . BUT HE'S MAKIN' TRACKS RIGHT AFTER THE REST OF HIS GANG!



WHEN THE OWLHOOTS REACH THEIR HIDEOUT . . .

BART . . . WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE ?!

TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO COME, LUKE . . . HAD TO RIDE THE BACKTRAILS! . . . I TRIED TO PULL A BOX OFFICE JOB TWO DAYS AGO . . . AND NOW I WANT HELP TO GET THE GIRL WHO RAN ME OFF! HER NAME IS . . . ANNIE OAKLEY!



WHAT?! THAT'S WHAT SHE JUST DONE TO ME AN' MY MEN OUT ON THE STAGE TRAIL!

THAT GIRL'S POISON, LUKE! SHE HAS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON . . .!



COWBOY WESTERN



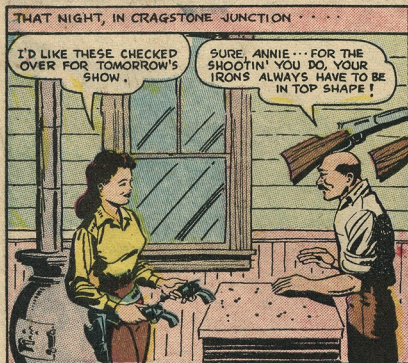
THAT'S EASY TO SAY--
BUT THERE AIN'T A
MAN AMONG US THAT'LL
STAND UP AGAINST
ANNIE OAKLEY!

HMMMM...
DIDN'T EXPECT
HER TO BE ON THAT
STAGE ... BUT
COME TO THINK
OF IT ...

I'VE HEARD TELL SHE'S
DUE IN **Cragstone
JUNCTION** TO PUT ON
ONE OF HER SHOWS!
NOBODY KNOWS US IN
THAT TOWN...THEY'D
NEVER DREAM OF US
SHOWIN' UP THERE!



COULD BE IF WE MOSIED INTO CRAGSTONE
JUNCTION WE COULD CATCH
ANNIE OAKLEY WITH HER GUARD DOWN!



THAT NIGHT, IN CRAGSTONE JUNCTION ...

I'D LIKE THESE CHECKED
OVER FOR TOMORROW'S
SHOW.

SURE, ANNIE...FOR THE
SHOOTIN' YOU DO, YOUR
IRONS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE
IN TOP SHAPE!



AT THAT MOMENT ...

WHATTA BREAK!
ANNIE'S GONE BACK
TO THE HOTEL!...**NOW**

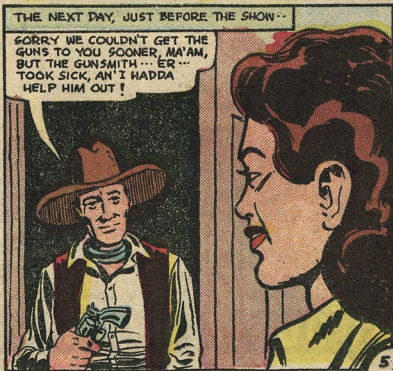
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE OVER THE
GUNSMITH SHOP...AN' THEN WE CAN FIX
ANNIE'S GUNS SO TOMORROW'S SHOW
WILL BE HER **LAST!**



AND SO ...

THE GUNSMITH'S
TIED UP IN BACK!

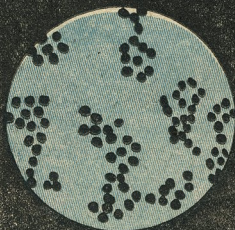
GOOD!... NOW WATCH THIS!
I'M POURIN' **HOT LEAD**
INTO THE BARRELS
OF ANNIE'S GUNS!



THE NEXT DAY, JUST BEFORE THE SHOW...

SORRY WE COULDN'T GET THE
GUNS TO YOU SOONER, MA'AM,
BUT THE GUNSMITH... ER...
TOOK SICK, AN' I HADDA
HELP HIM OUT!

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



Staphylococcus albus



Corynebacterium acnes



Pityrosporum ovale

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

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Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

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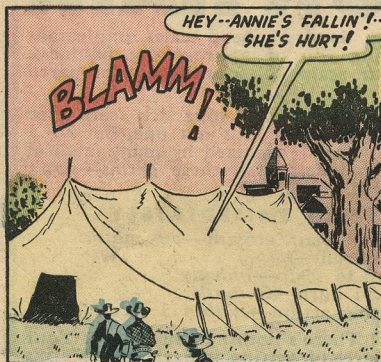
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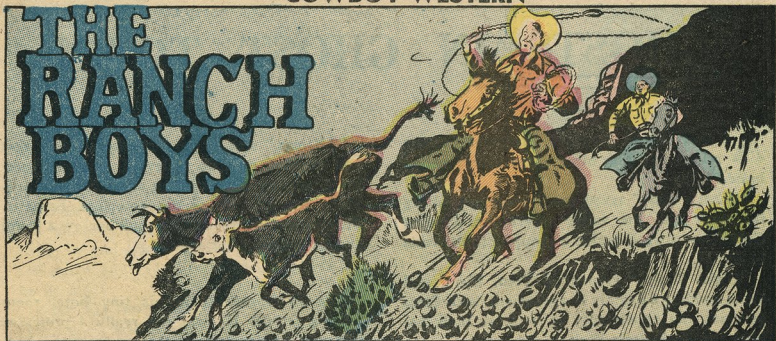
DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

COWBOY WESTERN



END

THE RANCH BOYS



EASY, BOY—
LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
GOIN'
DOWN!



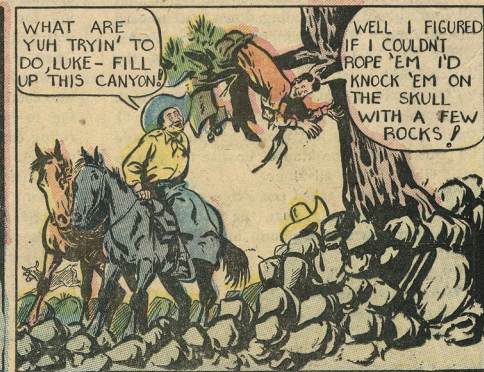
HEY, LUKE!
HANG' ON I'LL
BE RIGHT
WITH YUH!



RIGHT HERE WE
PARTS
COMPANY!



ALL THIS FLAT
COUNTRY AROUND
AND THEY GOT TO
COME DOWN THE
HARD WAY!



WHAT ARE
YUH TRYIN' TO
DO, LUKE— FILL
UP THIS CANYON!

WELL I FIGURED
IF I COULDN'T
ROPE 'EM I'D
KNOCK 'EM ON
THE SKULL
WITH A FEW
ROCKS!



GHOSTS IN GHOST TOWN

AS they topped the ridge, Professor Carman reined up. The other three riders halted beside him.

"What's that?" asked the Professor, pointing far away into the valley where the winding Gold River snaked beside a group of ramshackle buildings.

"Ghost Town," responded Tom, Clem, and Buck nodding solemnly in agreement, with Clem grasping the opportunity to wink at Buck behind the Professor's back.

"I've heard of such places," said the Professor. "I'd like to visit that one. Not today, because I have some material to study and letters to write, but perhaps tomorrow."

"Oooh, you wouldn't want to go there. The place is haunted," asserted Tom, gravely.

"There are ghosts of a couple of murdered men that spook up the town," declared Clem.

"Outlaws they was!" exclaimed Buck. "Nobody that ever went into Ghost Town ever came out again!"

"Nonsense," said the Professor. "Belief in ghosts is a superstition dating back to the dark ages. Civilized man does not give credence to such supernatural phenomena. I intend to visit Ghost Town tomorrow, and if you gentlemen do not care to accompany me, I shall go there alone."

After a last look at the crumbling buildings, he wheeled his horse. That was the signal that all four should begin riding down trail toward the very much alive community of Three Forks, where the Professor was putting up at the Three Forks hotel.

"Of course, I don't exactly put much stock in ghosts myself," said Tom after musing. "I think maybe that's just a yarn somebody made up. But it would be kind of unwise for you to visit Ghost Town all alone."

"Why is that?" asked the Professor.

"Well, it's mighty near the badlands and you might run smack plumb into the Bassett Brothers."

"Who are they?"

"Worst owlhoots in these parts!" cried Clem.

"They'd as soon shoot you as look at you!" exclaimed Buck.

"Ah, yes," mused the Professor. "Now that you mention it, I do believe I remember seeing a 'wanted' poster in the sheriff's office outlining the exploits of the notorious Bassetts. Forewarned is forearmed. I shall borrow a pistol and be prepared for them."

The Professor sat in his tiny hotel room writing letters. He was not really a professor but only a young school teacher from the East who was spending his summer vacation in the wild West. But on the very day of his arrival by stagecoach, Tom had given him that more exalted handle, and now, to all intents and purposes, it was his name. The Professor had arrived looking very pale alongside the leather-skinned natives. The paleness added to the gravity of his very serious young face. He was quite slender, and his whole appearance gave the impression of frailty, an impression that was deceiving.

Tom, Clem and Buck had marked him out as a dude and perhaps a sissy—fair game for their own particular brand of humor. Feigning friendly helpfulness, they had attached themselves to him. Their first stunt, Tom's brainchild, was to get the Professor up on a vicious and barely broken in mustang.

The horse had roared off in a cloud of dust around the livery stable and out of sight, heading for open country. Tom, Clem and Buck watched him go, bent double with laughter. They slapped their thighs and speculated as to whether the Professor had been thrown off into cactus or into a mudhole. They were mounting to go look when the Professor returned, riding easily with the fiery mustang fully under control.

"Quite a spirited steed," he had said. "I want to thank you gentlemen for letting me ride him. I wonder if I could arrange to have the use of this horse during the remainder of my stay."

"Y-y-you must've ridden before," gulped Tom.

"Oh, yes," agreed the Professor, mildly. "I took riding lessons before coming out here. 'When in Rome do as the Romans do,' you know. Of course, I'm more used to the flat

English saddle. This western saddle is like being in a rocking chair."

The defeat had made Tom, Clem and Buck more determined than ever to put over a good one on the solemn dude from the East. They were the kind of loafers whose greatest joy comes from the successful practical joke.

"Clem and I will dress up in sheets and be the ghosts," said Tom. "You go with him, Buck, so you can be sure to steer him into the old grain and feed store. That's where we'll be hiding."

Next day, on schedule, Buck and the Professor were topping the ridge, heading for Ghost Town. "Too bad your friends were too busy to come along," said the Professor. "I look forward to this as a very stimulating experience. A ghost town is something you never see in the East. Do you know why this place was abandoned?"

"Well," drawled Buck, "there was a mite of a gold rush some years back, and the town grew up around it overnight you might say. And then the gold petered out, and everybody left. There just wasn't any reason to stay there. 'Specially them three rainless years when the river went dry."

As they rode into the ratty main street, the Professor's eager eyes took in everything. The rotted board sidewalk, faded signs, blistering patches of paint on the sun-bleached building walls, glassless windows.

"Ghost town is the right word," he murmured.

"This here's the old grain and feed store," said Buck, pointing. "Like to have a look inside there?"

"Certainly." They dismounted, wrapping reins around the leaning, rusted hitchrail.

The Professor entered first, blinking. Coming in from the blazing sunlight made the musty, cobwebby interior seem even darker than it was. Buck followed him.

From behind an old counter at the left, two ghostly white figures arose, moaning, "Hooooo! Hooooo!"

"Ghosts!" exclaimed Buck, feigning surprise.

"Interesting that we should both suffer the same hallucination simultaneously," commented the Professor.

"Let's git outta here! Let's run! Ain't you gonna run?"

"Why, no," said the Professor. "I intend to try an experiment. I have heard that bullets

pass right through ghosts without doing them any harm. We'll see if that's true."

He had a six-shooter in hand and was aiming it at the sheeted figures. Buck was frozen with dismay. He tried to cry out but could not. The gun exploded twice, the shots echoing hollowly in the old store. Both "ghosts" fell to the floor and crawled out of sight behind the counter.

"Oh, dear, I guess it is not true after all. Bullets *do* kill ghosts. Oh, well, they were dead, anyway."

Buck at last found his voice. "They were not!" he wailed. "You know what you've done? You've shot my two best friends. That was Clem and Tom!"

The Professor, looking solemn as usual, walked briskly to the counter and leaned over it. He saw there, not corpses, but two quaking sheeted figures huddled low. One of them, through chattering teeth, said, "Y-y-you missed us. D-don't shoot again!"

"I didn't miss," said the Professor. "My gun was loaded with blanks. I have always felt that blanks were the best ammunition with which to shoot spooks."

SITTING on the rickety porch of the old store, the Professor faced three sheepish men and said, "You see, when you teach school, you learn a lot about the psychology of boyish pranksters. I could tell you three were planning a ghost joke on me as easily as if you had printed it in a newspaper. So I prepared."

"You sure turned the tables," agreed Tom. Then, haltingly, "By the way, Professor, you won't *tell* anybody about this, will you? We'd be the laughing stock. We'd have to leave town."

"I'll make a bargain with you," said the young teacher. "I want to build a school out here, and if you gentlemen will work to build it, I'll keep the secret."

"Work?" wailed all three.

"You have your choice," said the Professor. "I'll be able to buy materials as soon as I get the reward money. You see, when I went for a stroll last night, the Bassett Brothers tried to hold me up. I captured them. They're in jail now. That's why I had no fear of coming near the badlands with a blank gun."

Tom, Clem and Buck decided the Professor might be a good hombre to work for—but not against!

THE END

JESSE JAMES

CASCADE CITY...
KNOW THE
PLACE?

NOPE, BUT IF IT'S
GOT A HOTEL WITH A
BATH TUB, IT'S GOOD
ENOUGH FOR ME AFTER
THREE DAYS AND TWO
NIGHTS ON THE
TRAIL!

CASCADE
CITY

ON JUNE 1st, 1870, TWO
TIRED, DUSTY RIDERS
FOLLOW A CATTLE TRAIL
IN WEST TEXAS TO THE
SMALL FRONTIER TOWN
OF CASCADE CITY...



FIRST DOOR ON YOUR
LEFT AT THE LANDING,
MR... ER... PARKER!



COWBOY WESTERN

BUT AS THE TWO STRANGERS REACH THE LANDING...

THIS IS A STICKUP, MISTER!

DON'T START ANYTHING AND WE WON'T HURT YOU! TURN AROUND AND OPEN THAT SAFE BEHIND YOU!

WAIT A MINUTE, FRANK... WHY NOT STAY OUT OF IT? IT'S NOT **OUR** MONEY!

BECAUSE...

...AS SOON AS THEY LEAVE, THE CLERK'LL YELL FOR THE LAW! THEY'RE BOUND TO WANT TO TALK TO ANY STRANGERS IN TOWN... AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT!

THE WHISPERED CONVERSATION ON THE LANDING DRAWS THE ATTENTION OF ONE OF THE BANDITS, AND...

HEY, YOU TWO... COME ON DOWN HERE! AND KEEP YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT...

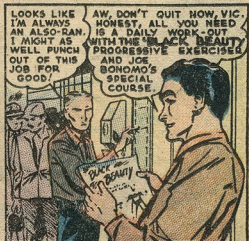
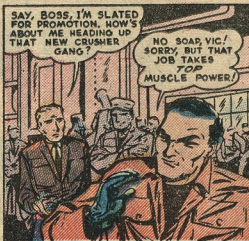
HE'S GOT THE DROP ON US!

TAKE IT EASY... IF WE DO AS HE SAYS... HE'LL RELAX A LITTLE AND WHEN HE DOES...

UNBUCKLE THOSE GUN BELTS AND TURN OUT YOUR POCKETS...

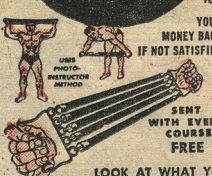
HEY!

How 'BLACK BEAUTY' TURNS AN ALSO-RAN INTO "VIDEO VIC!"



FREE DEVELOP REAL POWER INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH • BUILD YOUR BODY

WITH EVERY COURSE
NEW 5-CABLE
BLACK BEAUTY
PROGRESSIVE EXERCISER
HEAVY DUTY



BECOME AN ALL-AROUND WINNER

WIN FRIENDS • GAIN POPULARITY • BE A SUCCESS

JOE BONOMO SHOWS YOU HOW! Why grope in the dark wishing? Why let other guys run off with your best girl... take away that position on the team? Now, in the amazing new 'Black-Beauty' 5-Cable Progressive Exerciser and Joe Bonomo's personal instruction 'Power-Plus' method you, too, can become an all-around winner!

SCIENTIFIC! AND HOW! Wait 'til you see what fast progress you make to real power with 'Black Beauty' and Joe Bonomo. They're with you 'til you're 'TOPS' in the field.

Bernarr Macfadden says:

COMPLETE 'POWER-PLUS' CABLE COURSE
\$4.95 including 'BLACK BEAUTY' 5 CABLE EXERCISER FREE! (Worth 5.95 alone)

CUT OUT THE DREAMING! Strongmen think fast... act fast! Now that you've made up your mind... do something about it quickly! Get going! Send your order in right away!

LOOK AT WHAT YOU GET!

This big action-packed 'Power-Plus' CABLE COURSE is literally packed with dynamite every word bottled out for you by Joe Bonomo himself. Many of today's strongmen paid \$25.00 for these same instructions as a personalized mail order course. You get it now for only \$4.95... including Joe Bonomo's famous 'Black Beauty' Progressive 5-Cable Exerciser as a FREE gift to you. Don't wait! Act RIGHT AWAY!



"I consider your 'Power-Plus' Course tops for all-around physical development... endurance... strength... endurance. The secrets and short cuts you reveal with your system of body development are miraculous and I cannot endorse your course too highly."

ACT NOW FOR FREE OFFER

STRONGMEN'S CLUB OF AMERICA MAIL THIS "NO-RISK" FORM NOW!

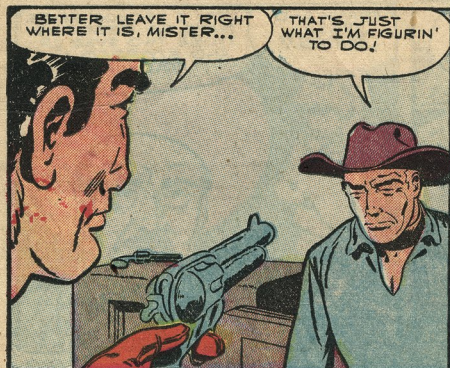
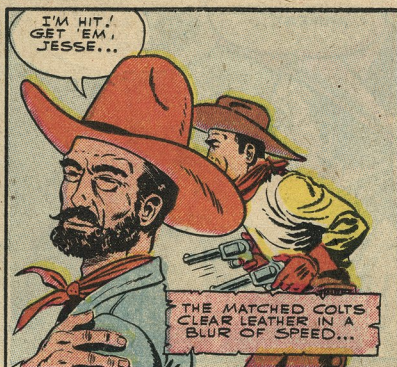
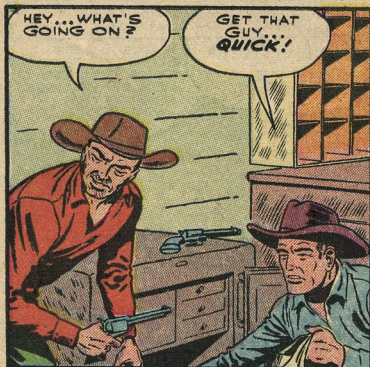
Joe Bonomo, Director
1641 Broadway, Dept. C78
New York 23, New York

Okay, Joe! Rush me your 'Power-Plus' Cable Course including, FREE of any additional charge, your new 'Black Beauty' 5-Cable Progressive Exerciser. I'll try the 'Power-Plus' Bonomo method for 2 weeks. If I am not 100% satisfied I can return it for an immediate refund.

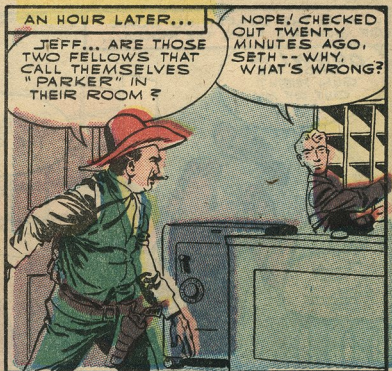
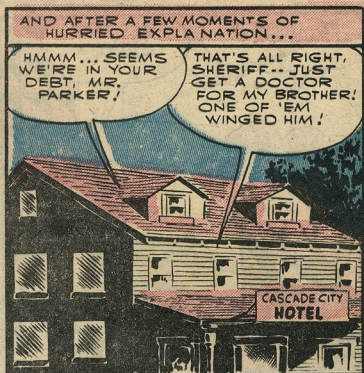
☐ I enclose \$4.95 in ☐ check, ☐ money order, ☐ cash.
☐ Send C.O.D. for \$4.95 plus shipping charges.

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City _____ State _____
Please Print Plainly Foreign (Except Canadian) Add \$1.00 Additional

COWBOY WESTERN



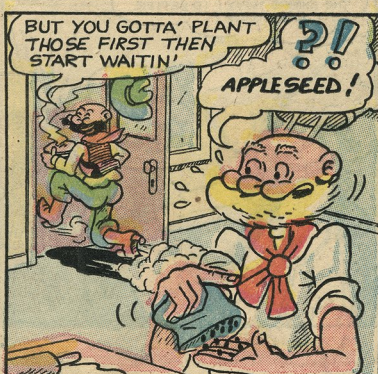
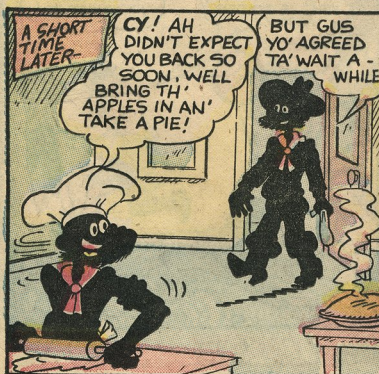
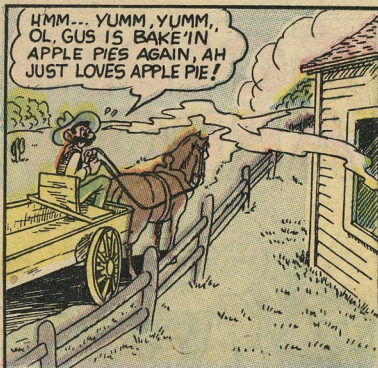
COWBOY WESTERN



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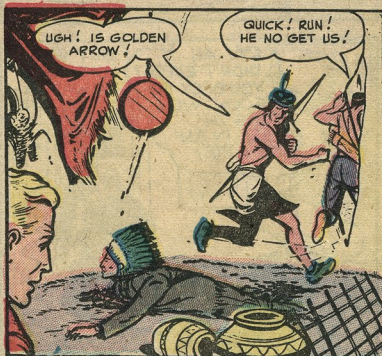
CHUCK WAGON

GUS

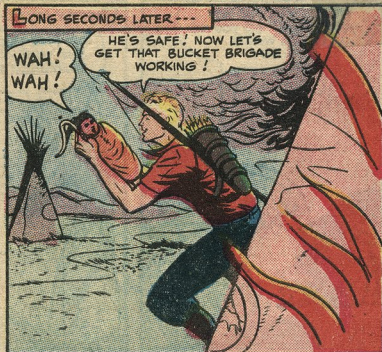
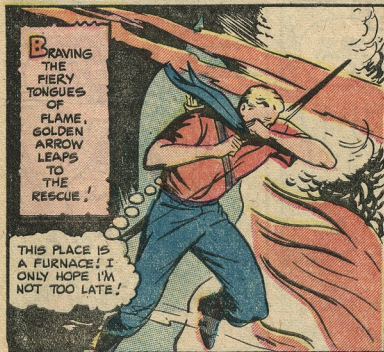
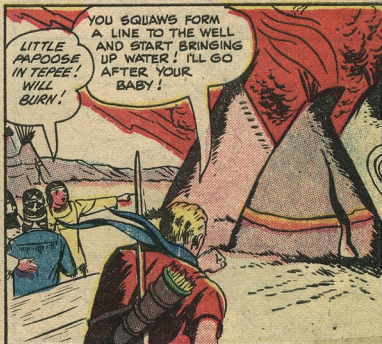


GOLDEN ARROW

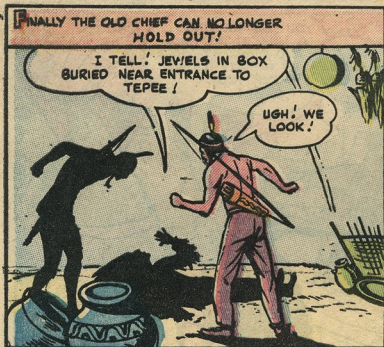
Fights THE RENEGADE ROBBERS!



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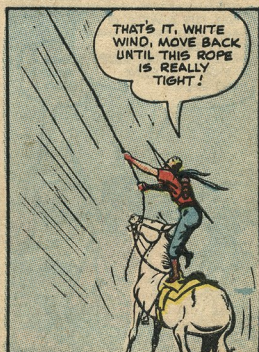
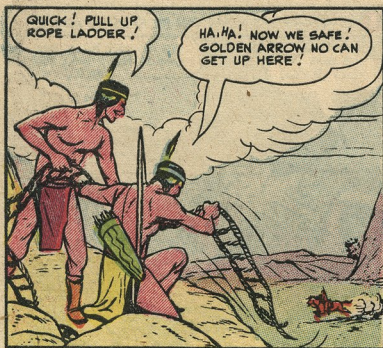
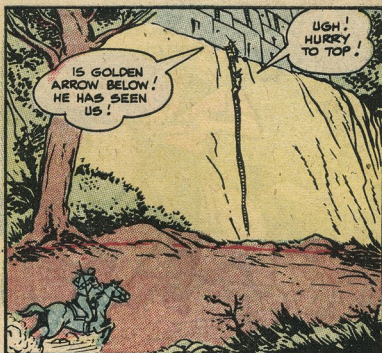
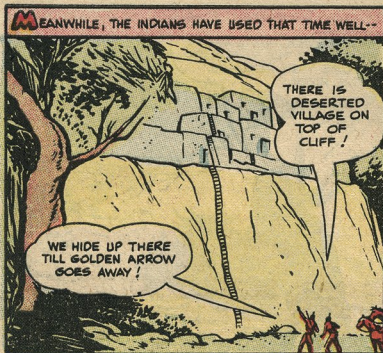
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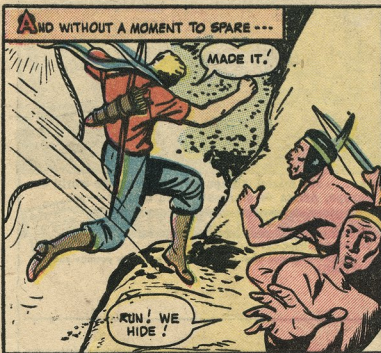
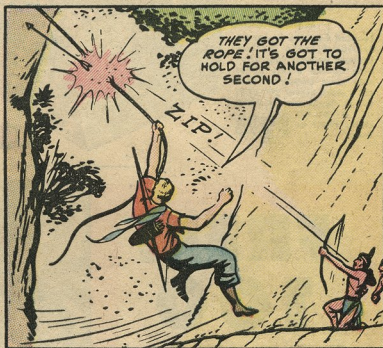
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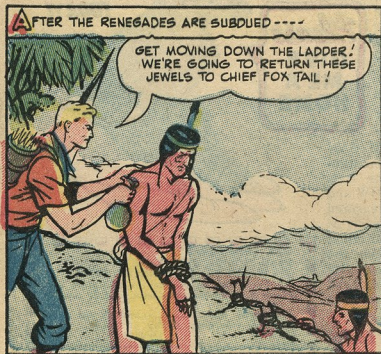
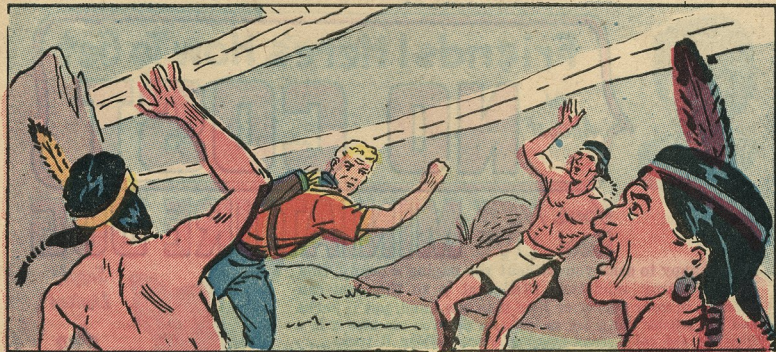
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CITY _____ STATE _____

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COWBOY WESTERN



COWBOY WESTERN



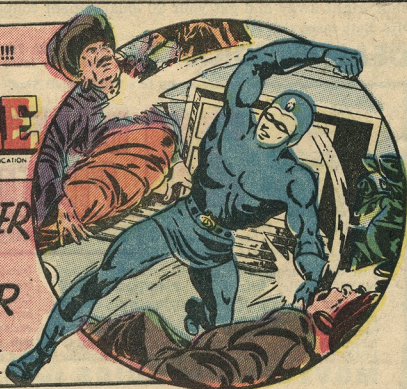
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I'll be happy to send you without you paying a penny, this lovable, young, miniature DOG that is so tiny you can carry it in your pocket or hold it in one hand, yet it barks and is a reliable watch dog as well as a pet. You can keep it in a shoe box and enjoy many amusing hours teaching it tricks . . . active, healthy, intelligent and clean. Simply hand out only 20 get-acquainted coupons to friends and relatives to help us get that many new customers as per our premium letter. I enjoy my own lively, tiny dog so much. It is such wonderful company that I'm sure you'll simply love one yourself.

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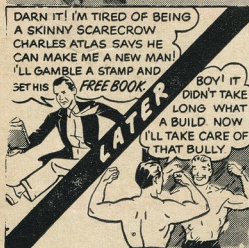
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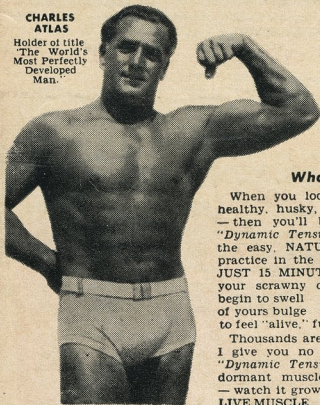
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Send me — absolutely FREE — a copy of your famous book, *Everlasting Health and Strength* — 32 pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital questions, and valuable advice. This book is mine to keep, and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

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